



## **COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER**

*CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1*

### **Press Release**

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For Immediate Release  
September 9, 2009

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### **Councilmember Lightner announces launch of San Diego's first Community Canyon Fire Watch Program**

San Diego ---Councilmember Sherri Lightner was joined by San Diego Assistant Fire Chief Javier Mainar, Rancho Peñasquitos Town Council President Andy Berg, Rancho Peñasquitos Fire Safe Council Members Tim Pomeroy and Dennis Spurr, Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Group Chair Charles Sellers, and Rancho Peñasquitos Park and Recreation Council President Bill Diehl at a press conference today at Peñasquitos Creek Park to announce the launch of the first Community Canyon Fire Watch Program in San Diego.

“The Rancho Peñasquitos community has taken the initiative to develop this volunteer-led program to help protect the neighborhoods surrounding Los Peñasquitos Canyon during the hottest months of the year, which are typically September through November. It’s great to be a part of this sort of community empowerment effort,” Lightner stated.

“Our community is committed to working with the Fire-Rescue Department to do everything we can to protect our homes from wildfires,” Town Council President Andy Berg said. “We will receive training from the Fire-Rescue Department on the best steps to take in the event that a fire is spotted.”

Assistant Fire Chief Javier Mainar added, “Our department will work closely with the community as volunteers monitor the canyon around the clock for fire activity so that they can notify us immediately of a fire and allow us to shave critical moments off an emergency response.”

“Rancho Peñasquitos community members are encouraged to join their neighbors at the inaugural Community Canyon Fire Watch meeting on Sunday, September 13 from 12 pm to 1:30

pm at the Peñasquitos Creek Park to learn more about how they can participate in the program and to sign up for volunteer shifts,” Fire Safe Council Member Tim Pomeroy added.

“We are excited with the high level of volunteer interest that has been generated so far, and we expect this program to develop and grow over the coming years,” Pomeroy continued.

“Seven primary areas and three secondary areas have been identified that are the top priority sites where volunteer teams will monitor the canyon for potential fire activity,” Lightner stated.

“Fire safety and prevention education is an important community empowerment component of this fire safety initiative. We’d like to thank the Fire-Rescue Department, Farmer’s Insurance, and community canyon watch program volunteers for partnering to provide and distribute “Before the Threat” wildfire preparedness materials to over 900 homes last weekend,” Lightner said.

“I look forward to working with the community to help organize volunteers for this vital effort to help protect our communities. We will be working with other neighborhoods to continue to develop similar initiatives throughout our District. It would be great to see this type of community empowerment throughout the region,” Lightner concluded.

*Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Penasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.*

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# Community Canyon Fire Watch

## Primary Monitoring Sites

Primary Monitoring Site #3

Primary Monitoring Site #2

Primary Monitoring Site #1

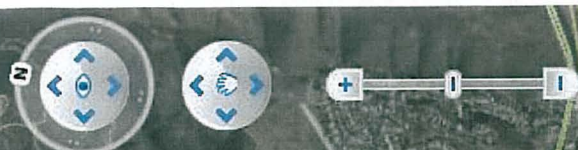
Primary Monitoring Site #5

Primary Monitoring Site #6

Primary Monitoring Site #7

Primary Monitoring Site #4

Los Penasquitos Canyon





# Community Canyon Fire Watch

## Secondary Monitoring Sites

Secondary Monitoring Site #1

Secondary Monitoring Site #3

Secondary Monitoring Site #2

Los Penasquitos Canyon

Imagery Date: Feb 2008

32°56'51.59"N 117°08'44.25"W elev 285 ft

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Eye alt 21434 ft